MARVEL COMICS
ELEKTRA
JAN
#14
A DEATH IN THE FAMILY
HAMA
DEODATO, JR.
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MIKE DEODATO JR.

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THAT GIRL IS MY RESPONSIBILITY...
...AND YOU CAN'T HAVE HER!
AND YOUR OVERDUE NOTE IS MY RE-SPONSIBILITY!
YOUR OUTSTANDING ACCOUNT WITH THE HAND HAS BEEN AUDITED, AND A SCHEDULE OF RESTITUTION HAS BEEN DRAFTED!
KA-TANG
IT IS PAYABLE IN FULL, AND THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE TENDER IS--
--A BEATING HEART!
KTING
SHRING!

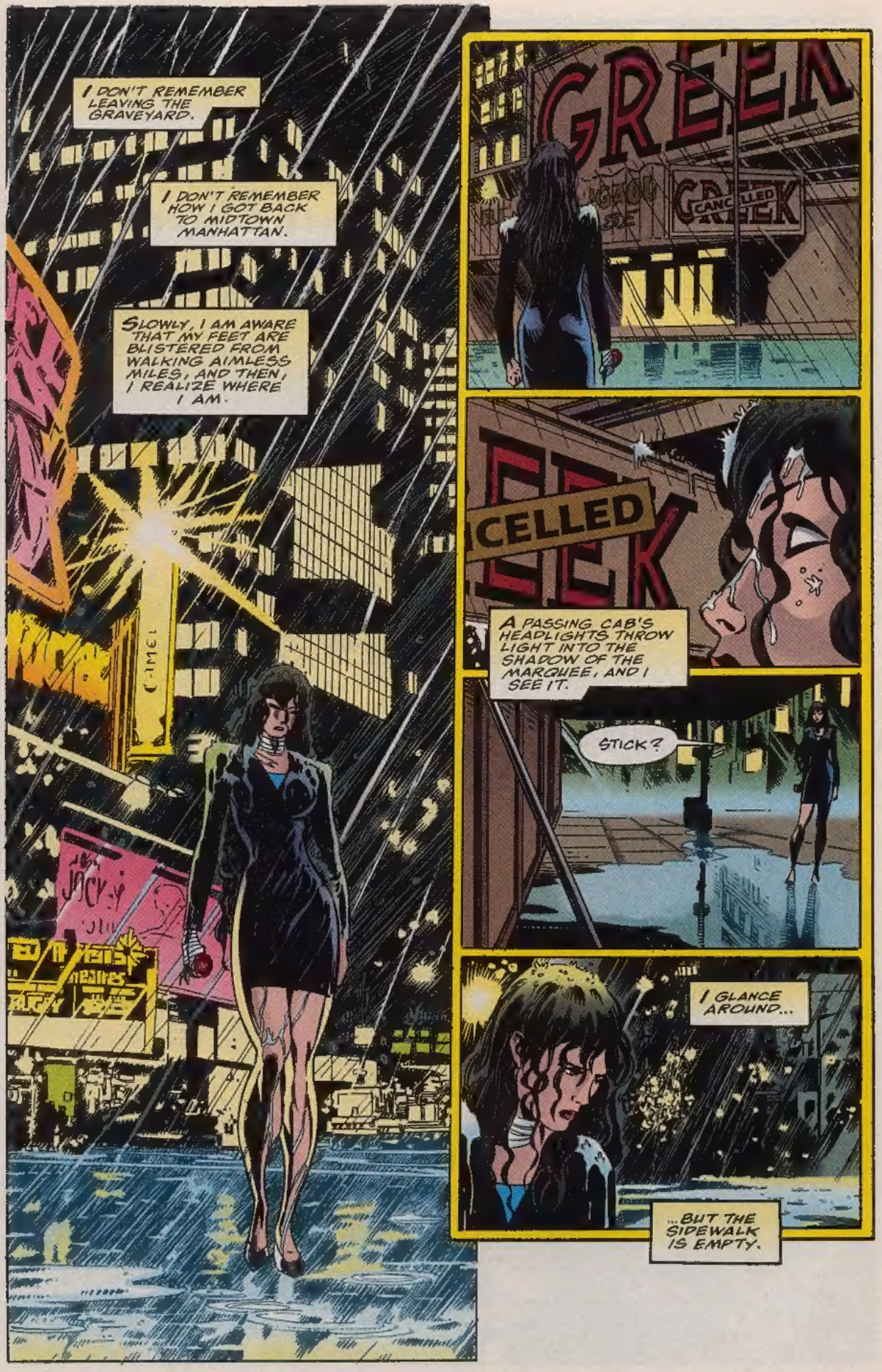
OVER
MY
DEAD
KRANG
BODY!
OH, THAT SHALL BE MINE AS WELL, IN DUE COURSE...
...BUT NOT THIS NIGHT.
KRAK
NO, TONIGHT YOU WILL BEAR WITNESS, AND REMEMBER!

SLOK
CRACK
I'LL GET FREE, AND I'LL KILL YOU, KUROYAMA!
IF YOU STRUGGLE AGAINST THAT RAZOR-HONED EDGE, YOU WILL SUCCEED ONLY IN SEVERING YOUR HAND.
Ah, ELEKTRA...
...DID YOU THINK YOU COULD SIMPLY WALK AWAY FROM THE HAND?
DID YOU THINK YOUR DEBT WAS CANCELLED?
WHAT IS IT WORTH TO BE BROUGHT BACK FROM THE DEAD?
I AM NOT AFRAID TO CROSS THE RIVER OF WOE AGAIN, ASSASSIN...
...BUT THE GIRL HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MY DEBT TO THE HAND!
YOU HAVE ME-- LET HER GO!!
MY BLOOD ALONE IS PAYMENT IN FULL!

THERE IS INTEREST ACCRUED, AND PENALTIES!
HER BELABORED DEATH IS BUT THE FIRST INSTALL-MENT!
Oh, PLEASE --
--I DON'T WANT TO DIE!!
Oh, YOU WILL BEG TO DIE, MY SWEET...
...LONG BEFORE I FINISH THE TASK OF CUTTING THE BEATING HEART OUT OF YOUR LIVING CHEST!
I AM REALLY DEAD, I THINK.
I AM DEAD, AND THIS IS A TORMENT OF HELL.
BUT THE GEYSERS OF BRIGHT STEAMING BLOOD ARE ALL TOO REAL.
AND THE SCREAMS...

THREE DAYS LATER, THE SCREAMS ARE STILL REVERBERATING THROUGH MY HEAD.
THEY DROWN OUT THE MUFFLED SOBS OF NINA'S GRANDPARENTS...
...AND THE WORN PLATITUDES OF A STRANGER IN AN ECCLESIASTIC COLLAR.
MAC MUMBLES HIS AMENS EXACTLY AS HE DID WHEN WE LAID NINA'S FATHER TO REST HERE.
I BEAR THE GUILT FOR THAT DEATH AS WELL.
BUT GUILT IS A MANTLE BEST WORN WITH FORBEARANCE.
AND I AM BEYOND TOLERANCE AND RESTRAINT.

GET OUT OF HERE!
WE DON'T WANT YOU THROWING YOUR FILTHY FLOWER ON HER GRAVE!
NINA IS BEING BURIED WITHOUT HER HEART!
WHAT KIND OF DEPRAVED MONSTER DOES A THING LIKE THAT?
THE KIND OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE DEALINGS WITH FILTH LIKE YOU, THAT'S WHO!!
YOU KNEW THE DANGER YOU WERE IN -- YOU KNEW, AND YOU DIDN'T SEND NINA AWAY!
WAK
YOU KILLED HER, YOU EVIL TRAMP!!
WHAP


I DON'T REMEMBER LEAVING THE GRAVEYARD.
I DON'T REMEMBER HOW I GOT BACK TO MIDTOWN MANHATTAN.
SLOWLY, I AM AWARE THAT MY FEET ARE BLISTERED FROM WALKING AIMLESS MILES, AND THEN, I REALIZE WHERE I AM.
GREEK
CANCELLED
CELLED
A PASSING CAB'S HEADLIGHTS THROW LIGHT INTO THE SHADOW OF THE MARQUEE, AND I SEE IT.
STICK?
I GLANCE AROUND...
...BUT THE SIDEWALK IS EMPTY.

SOMEHOW, I FIND MY WAY TO THE DOJO.
thump thump thump
HOLD ON, I'M COMING! DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS~?!
DO YOU KNOW ~ELEKTRA! WHAT?
AWW, WHAT ARE YOU DOING KNOCKING? YOU OWN THIS PLACE...
...AND EVERY-THING IN IT.
WHY DON'T YOU COME INSIDE AND GET WARM AND DRY?
NO, MAC...
...THAT WOULD BE TOO EASY.

THAT FIRST STEP IS NEVER EASY, ELEKTRA.
YOU STEP ACROSS INTO MY HEART, AND I SWEAR BY ALL THAT IS HOLY AND RIGHT AND GOOD THAT I WILL LOVE YOU FOREVER.
THERE
I'VE SAID IT
OH, MAC--
--THAT STICK!
WHERE DID YOU GET IT ?
THIS BO STAFF ?
I JUST GRAB IT INSTINCTIVELY WHEN I HAVE TO ANSWER THE DOOR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT..
IT WASN'T INSTINCT TONIGHT, MAC..
...IT WAS SOMETHING ELSE.
I HAVE TO GO AWAY NOW, AND I MAY NOT BE BACK FOR A LONG TIME
I CAN WAIT FOREVER, ELEKTRA.

I FINALLY FIND HIM IN A STINKING, LITTER-STREWN ALLEY
HIS NAME IS STICK, AND HE IS A MASTER OF THE ORDER KNOWN AS THE CHASTE
HE WAS MY MENTOR
BEFORE HE DIED
FIRE IS LIKE A SOLID THING TO THE BLIND, YA KNOW.
IT HAS WEIGHT
IT CAN BE YOUR FRIEND, OR IT CAN HURT YOU.
AT A CERTAIN DISTANCE, IT FEELS WARM AND COMFORTIN' --BUT DON'T GET TOO CLOSE!!
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ME, OR YOURSELF?
I WAS TALKIN' ABOUT FIRE.

I WAS EXPECTING YOU TO SHOW ME THE TORTURED REVENANT OF NINA STANDING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER OF WOE
PTUI!
WHAT AM I, TEIRESIAS THE SEER? IF I AM, THEN WHERE'S THE GOAT YA OWE ME?!
I CAN'T TELL YA WHAT YA DON'T KNOW OR CAN'T FIGURE OUT YOURSELF. ALL I CAN DO IS POINT OUT THE WAY.
YA WANT THE RIVER O' WOE?
IT AIN'T FLOWIN' ON THE FAR SIDE O' THE PILLARS O' HERCULES, IT'S RIGHT HERE IN THIS ALLEY.
THOSE ARE THE SHADES O' YESTERDAY STANDIN' ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER, BABE!
GARBAGE.
THAT'S WHAT YESTERDAY IS, AND THAT'S ALL GHOSTS AND REVENANTS ARE.
WHAT YOU GOTTA DEAL WITH IS TOMORROW, SUGAR
YOU GOTTA FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED.

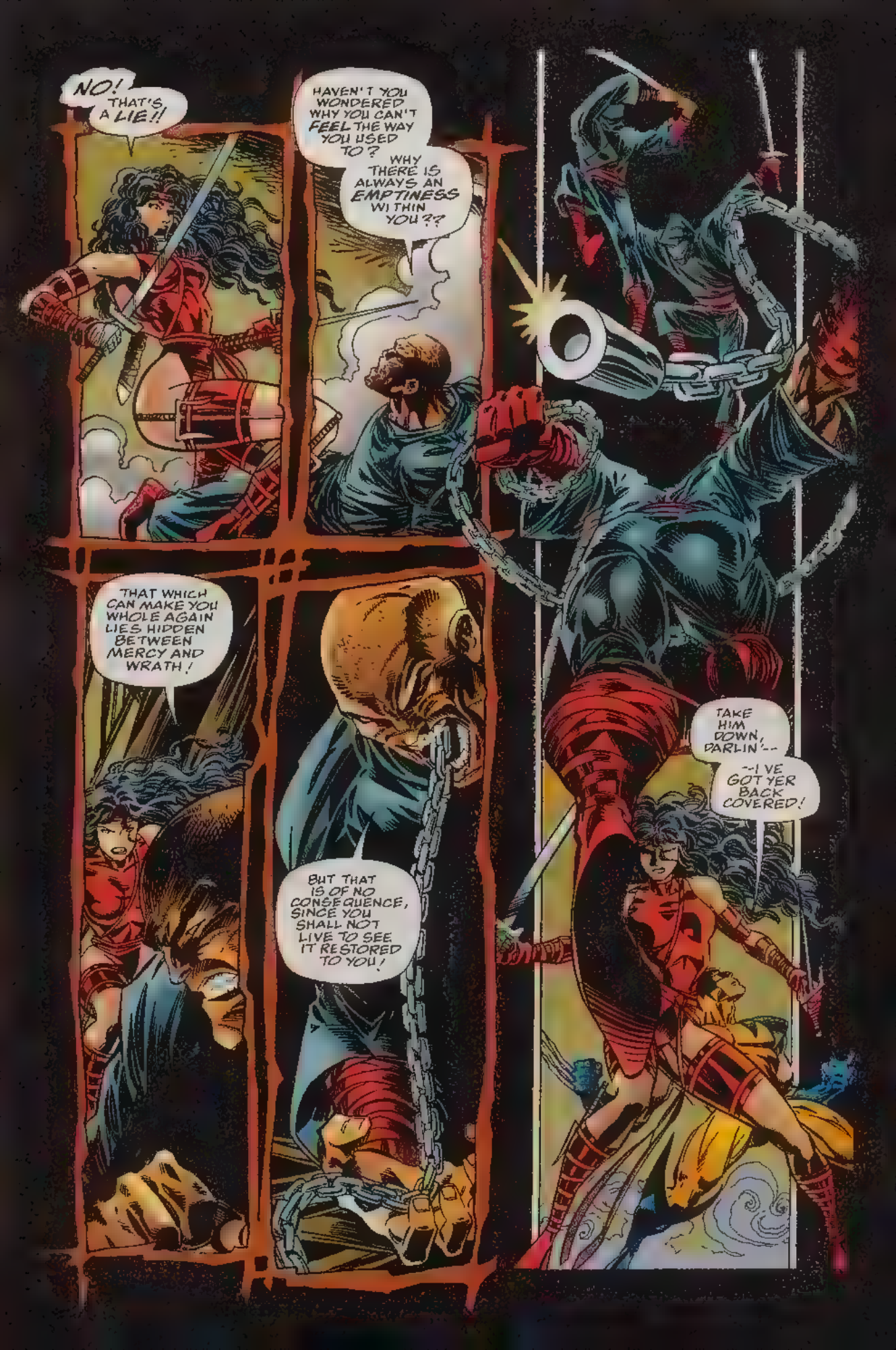
THE NEXT NIGHT, I MEET A FRIEND AT THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE...
...HE CUT HER HEART OUT, WOLVERINE...
AND HE WAS LAUGHING AS HE DID IT.
SO THAT'S WHY YA CALLED ME AND HAD ME SNIFF OUT ANY POSSIBLE HAND HOT-SPOTS.
THERE'S ONE IN MY OWN NABE, THE EAST VILLAGE.
THIS MUST BE PRETTY HEAVY IF YOU GOTTA ASK FOR HELP, DARLIN'...
C'MON, AND I'LL SHOW YA--
I'M JUST LETTIN' YA KNOW THAT WHATEVER IT IS, I'M DOWN FOR IT.

I JUST WANT YOU TO WATCH MY BACK, LOGAN.
I WAS TOTALLY UNPREPARED FOR KUROYAMA, AND I DON'T WANT TO BE CAUGHT OFF GUARD AGAIN.
THOSE OLD BOYS IN THE HAND HAVE BEEN A THORN IN MY SIDE FOR A GOOD LONG TIME
THIS IS GOOD.
IT'S TIME FOR PAY-BACK.
THIS ISN'T SIMPLY REVENGE.
I WANT THEM TO GIVE ME BACK MY LIFE.
YA CAN'T EVER GET YER OLD LIFE BACK, DARLIN'.
THAT'S JUST GRASPIN' AT SMOKE
JUST CONCENTRATE ON KICKIN' BUTT AND TAKIN' NAMES AND GETTIN' ANSWERS!

I TAKE HIS ADVICE TO HEART
THE SEEMINGLY ABANDONED TENEMENT IS VIRTUALLY INFESTED WITH NINJAS.
ONCE, WHEN LOGAN HAD SUCCUMBED TO THE ANIMAL THAT LURKS INSIDE HIM, I WAS TASKED WITH RETURNING HIM TO HUMANITY.
"PUT HIS FEET BACK ON THE PATH," STICK TOLD ME
TOGETHER, WE WALKED THE WAY OF THE RIGHTEOUS WARRIOR
THIS NIGHT, I FEAR I HAVE STRAYED FAR FROM THAT NOBLE PATH
THIS NIGHT, MY HANDS ARE RED, MY SOUL IS BLACK AND ANGER BURNS WHITE AS AN ARC LAMP IN MY BREAST

DO WHAT YA HAVE TO DO, DARLIN' BUT DON'T START TO LIKE IT
THAT'S A PLACE YA DON'T WANNA GO TO
WHY NOW?
WHY IS THE HAND CALLING IN ITS MARKER AT THIS TIME?!
WHY DID THEY WAIT SO LONG?!
THE HAND NEED NOT JUSTIFY ITS ACTIONS TO ONE SUCH AS YOU!
ANSWER DOG.
SHE'S DOWN TO DEAL, BUB.
I'D START FLAPPIN' MY JAW, IF I WAS YOU

THE HAND IS SIMPLY TAKING BACK WHAT IT GAVE YOU ON LOAN, ELEKTRA!
NO LIEN ON PROJECTED FUTURES, NO MORTGAGE ON LIFE YET UNLIVED?
EACH DAY YOU HAD WAS INTEREST ADDED TO THE ACCOUNT!
DID YOU THINK THAT THE ESSENCE OF LIFE IS THAT CHEAPLY RESTORED WITH NO PAYMENT DUE?
AND NOW THAT THE NOTE HAS COME UP, YOU SO BLITHELY RENEGE!
I OWE THE HAND NOTHING!
I FOUND MY REDEMPTION THROUGH THE CHASTE!
IT'S A LIE!!
HA!! THE CHASTE?! LIARS AND CHEATS AND DECEIVERS!!
THEY NEVER TOLD YOU?!
NEVER TOLD ME WHAT?
THAT BLIND ONE, THE OLD MAN WITH THE STICK, HE NEVER TOLD YOU??
WHEN THE DIRE NECROMANCERS OF THE HAND PUT YOU BACK TOGETHER--
--THEY HELD SOMETHING BACK!!


NO! THAT'S A LIE!!
HAVEN'T YOU WONDERED WHY YOU CAN'T FEEL THE WAY YOU USED TO? WHY THERE IS ALWAYS AN EMPTINESS WITHIN YOU??
THAT WHICH CAN MAKE YOU WHOLE AGAIN LIES HIDDEN BETWEEN MERCY AND WRATH!
BUT THAT IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE, SINCE YOU SHALL NOT LIVE TO SEE IT RESTORED TO YOU!
TAKE HIM DOWN, DARLIN'--
--I'VE GOT YER BACK COVERED!

SHUNK
SHAP
SCHRNG
KROK

WHAT WAS HE BABBLING ABOUT?
MERCY AND WRATH — IS THAT SOMETHING BIBLICAL?
NO, DARLIN', MERCY AND WRATH ARE TWO MOUNTAINS IN JAPAN.
BETWEEN THEM IS A MIST-SHROUDED VALLEY THAT WAS THE ANCESTRAL HOME O' SOME MAJOR BAD NINJAS WHO LATER BECAME KNOWN AS THE HAND.
THAT PLACE IS BAD MOJO, BABE.
NINJA CENTRAL.
...WHAT'S A VALLEY FULL OF NINJAS COMPARED TO THAT?
I CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD, AND I CLIMBED THE MOUNTAIN OF THE CHASTE...
NEXT ISSUE: IPHEGINIA RISING PART ONE

SAI'D BAR

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ASSISTANT EDITOR

BOBBIE CHASE
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS
CHIEF

Dear *Sai'd Bar,*

I have been collecting ELEKTRA because Marvel's "female" books tend to get canceled and I like the idea of owning another complete run on a title. However, eleven issues of ELEKTRA have shown more promise than eleven issues of certain other titles. I love this book!

Konrad's situation especially intrigues me. Please do not even consider restoring him to a male body. I like the way King admitted his bisexuality. It makes him unique in the book. Will we see a former male lover in the near future? Try to keep the Kingpin out of the series for as long as possible. I don't like his character very much. I never thought a storyline like the one involving the Architect would ever work, but you guys pulled it off nicely. Do you think Elektra could kill a major villain like Mountjoy? Will King and Mac ever help Elektra on one of her missions? Until Elektra develops low self-esteem, make mine Marvel!

John Aguilar
Bronx, NY

Thanks for the letter, John! It's great to hear that ELEKTRA intrigued you so much.

Dear Bobbie and Polly,

I knew it was going to happen sooner or later. Elektra and Daredevil were going to meet again and it would raise the possibility that their feelings for one another would come to the surface once more. This is one of those unresolved issues that goes back to the Frank Miller DAREDEVIL stories of several years ago. Are Matt and Elektra destined to be together or not? Well, I think the answer is "no." These two characters have gone through so much change in the last several years that they are not the same people they were when they first met, and they should really bury the past and move forward with their lives.

Now I would like to talk about another topic regarding ELEKTRA. There have been some readers who have called ELEKTRA "Marvel's bad girl comic." Well, that statement is about as far removed from the truth as anything I've ever heard. ELEKTRA is a comic book about a woman who is fighting her way towards redemption. Elektra is a beautiful woman, but she is also a human being with real human thoughts and emotions. It's the humanity of her character that forms the basis of the stories. Peter Milligan and Mike Deodato, Jr. deliver a quality comic book here and only the House of Ideas could present it to the readers.

Robert Moraes
Sun Lakes, AZ

Thanks, Robert! With Elektra and DD both living and operating in the Big Apple and all (along with pretty much every other Marvel character, now that we think of it!), it was only a matter of time before they crossed paths again. We agree with your estimation of their situation: Elektra and Matt are just not destined to be together.

Dear Bobbie and Polly,

I can not put into words how much I love this comic book, but I'll try. I love the artwork, so don't ever go manga! The storylines are interesting and very well thought-out. And I love the supporting characters! I'd love to say more, but I want to get my questions/comments in.

Put Elektra and Matt Murdock back together!! They're meant for each other. Mac's a great guy, but he's just not made for Elektra. And Karen Page isn't Matt's type. He needs Elektra and Elektra needs him. Can Elektra get a uniform that covers more skin? The one she wore in ELEKTRA: ROOT OF EVIL was cool. How about that one? Can Elektra start narrating her own stories like Catwoman does? Please, please, please, please put Elektra and Matt back together. I know I asked before, but I didn't want you to forget about it!

I won't stop writing until you put Elektra and Matt together again!

(Name and address withheld by request)

Well, Ye of No Name, is it safe to assume that you want Elektra to get back together with Matt? We hate to disappoint you, but we've gotta stick with our last response: it just ain't gonna happen. What Elektra and Matt had in the past was great, but they've moved on. As for the uniform thing, Elektra doesn't have any plans to go shopping at the Ninja Assassin Boutique anytime soon, but you never know when the fashion bug might bite her! Elektra narrating her own stories, huh? Hmmm... we'll get back to you on that one.

That's about all the space we've got this month! See you next time, when...

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IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PRINTED, PLEASE LET US KNOW. LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH.

NEXT ISSUE:
ELEKTRA--JAPAN--A MILLION NINJA ASSASSINS!

DESIGN BY COMICRAFT

I KNOW BY HIS GARB THAT THE INTRUDER IS A NINJA OF THE HAND.
THAT ALONE WARNS ME THAT MY YOUNG WARD NINA'S LIFE HANGS BY THE BAREST THREAD..
BEHOLD, ELEKTRA~!
~I AM KURODYAMA, THE BLACK MOUNTAIN, AND I HAVE COME TO CLAIM PAYMENT ON YOUR DEBT!
I GREW TIRED OF WAITING FOR YOUR RETURN, SO I SET THIS CONFLAGRATION AS AN AMUSEMENT AS WELL AS A LURE!
WATCH ME AS I REDEEM YOUR PLEDGE WITH THIS INNOCENT'S BLOOD!
ELEKTRA! SAVE ME!!
A HAND RAISED AGAINST HER!
LARRY HAMA WRITER
SCOTT KOBLISH INKS
MIKE DEODATO JR. ARTIST
CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORS
&
JACK MORELLI LETTERS
BOBBIE CHASE EDITOR
BOB HARRAS CHIEF